

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2645

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP

SUBJ: INDIAN-NEPALESE RELATIONS: POSITIVE ATMOSPHERICS

1. SUMMARY: FROM KATHMANDU PERSPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL'S AUGUST 13-18 VISIT TO NEW DELHI, THOUGH SHORT ON SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, WAS LONG ON CEREMONY AND THE RHETORIC OF FREINDSHIP TO WHICH THE GON ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE AS A BELL WETHER OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS SENSITIVE SOUTHER NEIGHBOR. KATHMANDU PRESS COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTED FACT THAT THE INDIANS ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR ARYAL AND PLAYED UP GENERAL AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES AND NEW MATURITY AND REALISM IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY KHATRI, WHO ACCOMPANIED ARYAL AND DISCUSSED THE TRIP WITH THE AMBASSADOR AUGUST 19, STATED THAT THE GON'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS THE CREATION OF A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE RATHER THAN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES. ON THIS SCORE, KHATRI FELT THAT THE NEPALESE WERE SATISFIED AND BELIEVED THAT THE INDIANS WERE ALSO. KHATRI CONFIRMED THAT INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WOULD BE VISITING NEPAL SOMETIME IN THE FALL AFTER THE UNGA SESSION AND WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED

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FROM FORMER PRIME MINISTER BISTA THAT GROUND WAS LAID FOR

A VISIT BY KING BIRENDRA TO NEW DELHI ENROUTE TO YUGOSLAVIA IN SEPTEMBER. SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, SUCH AS THE UPCOMING TRADE AND TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS, THE LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, AND THE UNGA, WERE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS. ACCORDING TO KHATRI, THERE WAS A GENERAL "MEETING OF MINDS" ON ALL SUBJECTS.

3. OTHER NEPALESE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE PRESS HAVE JOINED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS. IN AN INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS PRIME MINISTER RIJAL THANKED THE INDIANS FOR THE ASSISTANCE THEY HAD PROVIDED TO NEPAL, AND NOTED THAT BOTH NEPAL AND INDIA WERE WORKING FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF COMMON OBJECTIVES. HE ALSO STATED THAT "TRIVIALITIES" (DISAGREEMENTS) SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF GOOD RELATIONS AND THAT NEPAL AND INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP PRESUPPOSED "RESTRAINTS AND MATURITY ON BOTH SIDES." EDITORIALS IN MANY PAPERS NOTABLY GOVERNMENT SPONSORED RISING NEPAL ECHOED THE SAME THEMES OF MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

4. COMMENT: THE TRIP PROVIDED THE GON WITH ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE FOR FREINDSHIP WITH INDIA AND TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN 1976 FOR A NEW TRADE AND TRANSIT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE VITAL TO NEPAL'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS DECADE. THE INDIANS, FOR THEIR PART, EVIDENCED BY THE ELABORATE TREATMENT ACCORDED ARYAL, ALSO SEEM INTERESTED IN PUTTING RELATIONS ON A MORE EVEN KEEL, WHILE THEY SORT OUT THEIR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORDIAL AND CONTRUCTIVE RELATIONSWITH INDIA IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN NEPAL'S LONG TERM FOREIGN POLICY, AND RECENT EFFORTS, BEGINNING WITH TULSI GIRI'S SPECIAL VISIT TO NEW DELHI IN JULY, TO IMPROVE THE TONE AND ATMOSPHERE APPEAR TO BE BEARING FRUIT. VISITS BY CHAVAN TO NEPAL AND BIRENDRA TO INDIA WILL PRESEUMABLY FURTHER ENHANCE THE RELATIONSHIP.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE NEW DELHI'S READING OF ARYAL VISIT AND STATE OF INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS. CARGO

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